

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01329 180705Z
ACTION EB-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6072
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UNCLAS MANAGUA 1329

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EPAP, NU
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON COFFEE RUST DISEASE CONTROL CAMPAIGN

REF: MANAGUA 290 AND PREVIOUS

1. WITHIN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, TWO NEW OUTBREAKS OF THE COFFEE RUST HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN TWO PLANTATIONS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 17 KILOMETERS FROM THE QUARANTINED AREA IN CARAZO. THESE ARE THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE RUST BEING DISCOVERED OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF

THE QUARANTINED AREA. ACCORDING TO SOURCES AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE OUTBREAKS WERE SMALL AND HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CONTROLLED.

2. MINISTRY SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT THE OUTBREAKS WERE PROBABLY CAUSED BY THE MOVEMENT OF PICKERS FROM ONE COFFEE-PRODUCING AREA TO ANOTHER. THIS OCCURED DESPITE THE FACT THAT ALL THE BELONGINGS OF THE ININERANT WORKERS WERE DISINFECTED BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE AREA OF THE QUARANTINED ZONE.

3. NICARAGUA STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED THE PROMISED FUNDS FOR THE ANTI-RUST CAMPAIGN FROM THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, MEXICO AND PANAMA. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTRY CONTEMPLATED CUTTING THE PROGRAM IN HALF DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS, IT DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL AT LEAST UNTIL JULY. THE REASON GIVEN BY THE
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MINISTRY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM WAS THE "SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT" THAT THE DISMISSAL OF 1000 WORKERS WOULD HAVE.

4. MINISTRY SOURCES INDICATED THAT THE GON IS UNWILLING, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TO "COMPROMISE ITSELF" BY REQUESTING A OAN FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (CABEI) IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM BEYOND JULY. CABEI HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED

NICARAGUA A LOAN OF \$10 MILLION (AT 14 PERCENT INTEREST) FOR THE
ERADICATION PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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